



October 18, 2010

NEWS FROM VOLUNTEER SERVICES

by Diane Lemker

The IVH Volunteer Advisory Committee began meeting again in September and are busy with plans for the coming year. Their first sponsored event is the Halloween Dance on October 29. "The Other Band" will be playing at the dance, courtesy of the American Legion.

The Elks are holding their annual Pork Roast on Saturday, October 16. Elks representing lodges from around the state will be here to visit with our residents and serve them a delicious meal.

MCC students in Brenda Heitmeyer's Technology for Education class will be here on Oct. 21 and 28 to teach computer classes (basic, email, internet & Facebook) to IVH residents.

This fall has seen a definite increase in group tours. Groups who are interested in scheduling a tour can call 800-645-4591 or 641-753-4406.



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Commandant's Corner

As you are all aware, there are many things happening at the Iowa Veterans Home. For those of you who have been in the Culture Change and Blitz as well as some of the other briefings I have attended, you may have heard me discuss my expectation of everyone getting engaged in the total operation of the IVH.

There are many committees here at the IVH and I have challenged your chain of command to get different people involved by serving on those committees. It was suggested that I let everyone know that the option of serving in an additional role is an option. So here is that request. I recently asked the group at the Culture Change briefing if they attended any of the IRCC meetings held on their floor.

I was told by every LPN and CNA there, they have never attended these meetings. When asked why, they said "I was never asked." That is a very reasonable response.

I challenge you all not to wait to be asked. Go to your supervisors and let them know you want to help serve our residents in other ways. Tell them you would be interested in serving in some additional capacity. Get together with your fellow co-workers and try to come up with ideas that may work on your floor or in the entire facility.

Culture Change will only work if we are all engaged in the process. None of us have all the answers. Help us come up with some.

Commandant David Worley

IVH Couples Dinner Photos *(below and above)*





Heinz Hall Update

by Susan Wilkinson

The month of September was a busy one as we had four admissions to and three discharges from Heinz Hall. Our beds remain filled and we have not yet reached the point where we are able to accept outside admissions. The transfers from nursing are going well and we heartily welcome the new residents to this level of care.

In addition, we are holding a condensed version of the Living in Balance classes with four residents participating. They are looking forward to graduating from the program just before the Thanksgiving holiday.

IVH Insights is a twice-monthly publication of the Iowa Veterans Home.

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Call ext. 4397 or
send to PR/Mktg Dept.

Watch Your Speed by Russ Pape

Several weeks ago the Marshalltown Police Department set their speed trailer on Memorial Drive -- Jerome street entrance. Here are some results of the vehicle speeds.

67% of the vehicles traveling this road were speeding. 14% were going 26 MPH or faster. Folks, please **slow** down. The IVH Campus speed limit is **20 MPH**.

Additionally, Security collected some stop sign data from the IVH campus. 60% of the vehicles did **not** make a complete stop. Room for improvement, you bet! Let's do our part to make our roads safe for our pedestrians. Folks, please make a complete stop and proceed slowly.

Some safe driving tips to remember:

- Drive defensively. Obey the rules and be predictable.
- Don't drive if you are tired.
- Obey the speed limit. In rain, snow, fog and darkness, slow down.
- Use caution at turns. Use your signals.

- Keep your car running well. Make sure your tires, brakes, headlights and taillights, and turn signals are all working perfectly.
- Stay aware of the drivers around you. If you see an erratic driver, don't get angry -- get away from them.
- Be careful at intersections. The average American driver is mediocre. Don't assume others are going to do the right thing.
- Keep your children in car safety seats, and know how to install the seats.
- Use cell phones with caution. Pull over if you can, or limit your calls to emergencies.
- If your car has an Anti-lock Braking System (ABS) and you must brake because of an **obstacle**, be sure to press the brake pedal and hold, and gently steer around the obstacle.
- Don't drink and drive. If you plan to drink, plan your transportation in advance. Every year, 23,000 people die from drunken driving accidents.



In honor of **National Pharmacy Week** (October 17-23), check out the bulletin board outside of the IVH Pharmacy area (pictured left). The board contains information about IVH Pharmacy staff. Learn more about your fellow co-workers and check out the fun photos.

Nursing Department by Sarah Workman

The Nursing Department continues working with Regulatory Compliance and other departments to develop a plan addressing DIAs' recent concerns regarding resident elopement. We continue to explore avenues that allow optimal off-unit activities/participation while ensuring resident safety.

Additional areas of focus include Falls, Restraints/Non-restraints, Documentation of Care Plan Review and Updates, Pain, and Skin Impairment.

We have also been exploring options to help ensure documentation of resident care is clear, concise, consistent, and resident focused. To meet this objective, we will soon be implementing SOAP (subjective, objective, analysis/assessment plan) documentation methodology. Additional information will be forthcoming.

We continue to mandate staff as needed, and thank everyone for their assistance and dedication.

Facilities Management *by Kathy Shannon*

In anticipation of the impending weather change, the contractors are working very hard to get the outside of the Dack Building project (*pictured right*) completed. The masons have done an exceptional job getting the brick in place. Windows are on order and will be installed as soon as they arrive. Everyone is hoping for continued good weather to give the contractors more time to complete the exterior before the dreaded snow begins to fly.

The Phase 1 Project is also continuing at a steady pace. The last household in the Ulerly building has been shingled. Work is continuing at different phases in all households in the Ulerly building. Temporary entry doors will be installed soon in anticipation of winter weather. The contractors will be installing temporary heating units to keep the units warm as they apply paint and an acoustical spray in the hearth rooms and kitchens.



The final car in Malloy should be completed in approximately five weeks. Then the contractor will go back and, one at a time, replace the flooring in these elevators. It has seemed like a long process, but we are nearing the end of elevator renovation in Malloy. The final Dack elevator renovation is tied in with the Dack Expansion project. The expectation is that it may be approximately ten weeks before the final elevator is complete.

The Bulk Oxygen Relocation project is nearing completion. The removal of the old tank will occur on October 26 and scheduling of the landscaping will occur soon. If all works well, this project should be completed by the end of the year. The Dietary Floor Replacement Project has also now gone out for bid.



The Fox building continues to progress well. The fencing and planting has begun around and in the courtyards (*shown left*). As you can see, the courtyards have taken on a vastly different appearance. The fencing has been installed and the plantings are in place. The patio columns have been sided, giving a more finished appearance. The interiors of the building are fast approaching completion. In November the contractors will begin limiting access to portions of the building so that flooring may be installed.



Kitchen and dining area of an individual household pictured above

Resident & Family Services

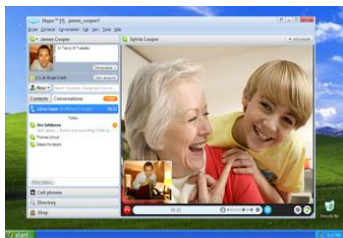
by Randy Inhelder

The General Election for various offices at the local, state, and national level will be held on Tuesday, November 2nd. If residents have already applied for an absentee ballot, a bi-partisan team designated by the Marshall County Auditor and Commissioner of Elections will deliver their absentee ballot to them at their room on October 21 and 22. For Dack & Heinz Hall, the teams will come between 8:30 am - 12 pm on the 21st. For Sheeler, Malloy, and Loftus, the teams will come between 1-4 pm on the 22nd.

On November 1, residents will be able to vote when the Marshall County Auditor's office sets up a voting station in the Malloy LRC from 10 am-2 pm. Residents can vote on that day if they wish and they do not need to have previously requested an absentee ballot to vote on November 1.

Any resident that wishes to vote on Election Day can go to the polling place at Miller Middle School. A state car has been reserved to take residents to the polls. If a resident needs assistance, please contact Resident and Family Services at ext. 4497 or 4385. However, most residents who have voted previously, have done so either through absentee ballot or the day before when the county comes to the Malloy LRC.

Technology Department Updates *by Rob Buchwald*



In an effort to improve the ability for an IVH resident to correspond with friends and loved ones, the IT Department is working with Resident and Family Services to implement Skype, a communications software application that allows users to talk and view their friends or loved ones over the Internet. These calls are free to other Skype members and there is no membership fee. The requirements are a computer connected to the Internet, a video camera, and microphone.

IT has repurposed some all-in-one computers and purchased inexpensive web cameras with built-in microphones. Two IRCC teams in Malloy are currently in the process of testing Skype with families of residents. Our intention is to better serve the residents by giving them the capability to see their families on a more regular basis since some families live too far away or do not have the means to visit.

If the pilot is successful and proves popular, IT is prepared to offer it campus-wide. IT would like to thank the nursing staff for working with Residents and their families to learn the basics and feel comfortable with the technology.





Holiday Bazaar

The REAL Committee is planning the 6th Annual Holiday Bazaar for Friday, November 5 in the Malloy LRC from 9 am – 4 pm. This event is open for staff and residents in the morning and to the public in the afternoon. Last year we had 28 vendors; if you're interested in being a vendor, please call Robin Richardson at ext 4518.

Upcoming Events

Day	Date	Time	Event	Location
	10/17-23		Infection Prevention Week	
	10/17-23		National Pharmacy Week	
	10/25-29		Halloween Fun House	Loftus 2
Tues	10/26	9am-noon	Rehab Fun Day	Malloy LRC
Wed	10/27		IVH Staff Costume Contest	Loftus 2
Thurs	10/28	8am-4:20 pm	IVH Mental Health Issues Symposium	Whitehill
Fri	10/29	1:30 pm	IVH Halloween Dance	Atha Dining Room
	10/29-11/20		Enrollment & Change Period – contact IVH Employee Services Dept.	
Fri	11/5	9am-4pm	Annual IVH Holiday Bazaar	Malloy LRC
Mon	11/8	10 am	Honor Flight Panel Discussion & Reception	Malloy LRC
Wed	11/10	9-11 am	Holiday Social Committee Bake Sale	Malloy LRC
Thurs	11/11	10:30 am	Annual Veterans Day Program	Malloy LRC

Announcements

Employee Health/Infection Control will be offering flu shots to all employees on the following dates:

Tuesday, October 19	6 - 10 am	1 - 3 pm
Wednesday, October 20	6 - 10 am	1 - 3 pm
Thursday, October, 21	6 - 10 am	1 - 3 pm

(Please enter Employee Health through the door located near the switchboard)

The front sidewalk has been taken off line with the fencing changes that were implemented to secure the construction area for the safety of all residents, visitors and staff. Independence Drive will be limited to the contractors for on and off loading of equipment and supplies. Please make sure if you are using Independence Drive as a walkway that you stay in the lane that has been painted for your safety.



Phoebe (Fuller) Mejias, *pictured right*, is the daughter of IVH staff member Kathy Fuller. Phoebe was deployed to Iraq on October 11 in an advise and assist role in Operation New Dawn. Phoebe worked at the IVH Medical Clinic for three years. Phoebe's mailing address is:

SPC Phoebe Mejias
DSTB, HSC, DFAC
4ID INFANTRY DIVISION
APO, AE 09393



Business Services Update *by Greg Wright*

Last week the Iowa's revenue forecasters projected a nearly \$298 million increase for the current fiscal year in state government revenue, a barometer indicating strength of the state's overall economy.

The adopted projection for July 1, 2010, to June 30, 2011, represents a 2.2 percent increase in revenue, or \$297.7 million, over the group's most recent estimate. State receipts in the first quarter of the current fiscal year are up by 6.4 percent compared with the same period last year.

Despite that uptick, the three-member conference chose to embrace the more conservative estimate of a 2.2 percent increase, rather than 2.5 percent. Members cited lingering questions about home sales and unemployment and uncertainty over whether Congress will extend income tax breaks put into place when George W. Bush was president. All those factors could affect state tax collections. All members voiced cautious optimism about their projections.

"We're obviously coming out of the recession, so it's not yet robust, but these are positive numbers, and we're heading in the right direction," said Dick Oshlo, director of the Iowa Department of Management and one of the conference members.

The revenue estimate is important because the governor and legislators must by law use it to craft the state budget. Falling estimates also can force midyear budget cuts. The estimate projects that state government would have \$123.9 million more to spend this fiscal year than last year.

Source: Des Moines Register